(b) if so, the details thereof, city-wise;

(c) the measures taken/proposed to check it;

(d) the officials held responsible for allowing such life-threatening drugs; and

(e) the action proposed to be initiated against such officials?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) During the recent past, three cases of import of bulk drugs from unregistered source originating from China were detected at Chennai sea port by the officers of Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO). The import of drugs from unregistered source is not permitted under the Drugs and Cosmetic Act 1940 and Rules, 1945.

(c) The CDSCO under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has taken up the issue of import of bulk drugs from unregistered source with Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Customs and all port officials to curb such import into the country.

(d) The import of bulk drugs from unregistered source has not been allowed by the officials of Central Drugs Standard Control Organization.

(e) Does not arise.

Swine Flu infected foreigners visiting India

†212. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign passengers infected with swine flu have entered India in recent past;

(b) if so, the names of the States where such cases have been reported, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has made arrangements on airports for medical examination of all the passengers coming from foreign countries;

(d) if so, whether Government has made any arrangement for sending back the infected foreign passengers immediately; the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by Government to check infection from spreading in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes.

(b) Details are given in the Statement. [Refer to Statement appended to USQ 204 Pt. (a) to (e).]

(c) Arrangements have been made for entry screening of passengers at 22 international airports and five international checkpoints. Passengers from affected countries are subjected to temperature monitoring. On being detected having fever, the passenger is subjected to medical examination.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) No, Sir. All the airports have attached isolation facilities where they are isolated and treated.

(e) Government of India took a series of actions. A comprehensive plan including guidelines and standard operating procedures were put in place. Travel advisory was issued to defer non essential travel to the affected countries. Community surveillance to detect clusters of influenza like illness is being done through Integrated Disease Surveillance Project. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi and National Institute of Virology, Pune are testing clinical samples. Sixteen additional laboratories have also started testing. There is adequate quantity of Oseltamivir, the drugs and protective equipments. License has been issued to three Indian manufacturers for importing seed virus to manufacture flu vaccine. Short term media plan has been implemented. Travel advisory, do's and don'ts and other pertinent information has been widely published to alley fear and avoid panic. Media is kept informed on daily basis.

The pandemic preparedness and response calls for actions in sectors beyond health. National Disaster Management Authority has issued guidelines for such actions.

All States have been requested to gear up the State machinery and strengthen isolation facilities including critical care facilities at district level.

Government is fully geared up to deal with the situation.

Abnormalities due to alarming level of uranium

213. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that abnormalities among more than 150 children in a pocket of Faridkot district in Punjab has been found due to alarming levels of uranium, which was detected by tests conducted by a toxicologist from Johannesburg during April, 2009 while unraveling the mystery of uranium in the afflicted kids admitted to a local hospital; and

(b) if so, whether preventive measures would be devised by Government and circulated to States for strict observance?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) This Ministry has not received any scientific report on alarming levels of uranium among children in Faridkot District in Punjab. A news report mentions about high levels of uranium in 150 mentally disabled children in Faridkot. The news report also mentions about an exercise being carried out by the Department of Atomic Energy to confirm levels of uranium among children and its possible sources.

Charging of capitation fee by private medical colleges

214. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there have been complaints against some medical colleges demanding capitation fee from the students for admission;